

REMARKS

Claims 5-13 and 41 are pending. Claims 1-4 and 14-40 have been cancelled. Claim 5 has been amended to further clarify the claim language. Claim 41 has been added. No new matter has been added.

Applicant's Representative appreciates the courtesies extended by Examiner Smith during the recent October 3, 2007 personal interview. Applicant's separate record of the interview is incorporated into the remarks below.

An election of species was required and Group II was elected. Claims 5-13 read on the elected species. Applicant reserves the right to file one or more divisional applications based on the non-elected claims.

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 12-13 contain allowable subject matter.

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As agreed to during the October 3, 2007 interview, enabling support for claim 9 can be found, for example, at paragraphs [0104] and [0105] of the Specification. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 5-8 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,061,901 (hereinafter "Shnitzer"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As suggested by the Examiner during the October 3, 2007 interview, claim 5 has been amended to clarify the "audio signal route switching system" of claim 5.

Shnitzer does not disclose this feature of claim 5. The adapter of Shnitzer does not correspond to the audio signal route switching system of claim 5. When a user dials digits into the telephone, the dialed digits are taken to be address information. (See col. 6, lines 26-28). Once the address of the receiving entity is located and a connection is established, the

adapter in Shnitzer converts the analog signals into digitized packets to be transmitted to the connected computer, and subsequently to the receiving entity (*See* col. 6, lines 38-43).

Thus, the adapter of Shnitzer does not switch a source or a destination of an audio signal from a telephone line terminal to an audio signal input/output terminal connected to an Internet terminal after receiving an Internet telephone starting command input by a user, as called for by the audio signal route switching system of claim 5. Rather, the adapter of Shnitzer always transmits the analog signal, after converting it to digitized packets, to the computer to which it is connected (*See* Fig. 4, Step 85). The adapter of Shnitzer does not transmit the digitized packets to the computer based on an Internet telephone starting command input by a user.

Therefore, claim 5 is patentable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Shnitzer in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0109409 filed by Simpson et al (hereinafter "Simpson"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Simpson fails to provide that which Shnitzer lacks. That is, Simpson fails to teach or suggest the audio signal route switching system of claim 5. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:SQV/axl

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: October 26, 2007

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